

NEWS RELEASE

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

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For Immediate Release

July 21, 2005

Ronald J. Tenpas, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that JOHN ANDREW SMILEY, age 35, of Westfield, Illinois, was sentenced today in U.S. District Court in Benton, Illinois. SMILEY, who had previously pled guilty to conspiracy to manufacture, distribute, and possess with intent to distribute 500 grams or more of methamphetamine and possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine, was sentenced to 240 months' imprisonment, 10 years' supervised release, and was fined \$400.00.

The violations took place between January 2003 and January 6, 2004 in Clark County, Illinois. Co-defendants Mark Evan Childress and Melanie Nichol Sewell have previously been sentenced to 42 months' imprisonment and 87 months' imprisonment, respectively, Sewell, for her role in the drug offense, and Childress for his role in a related destructive device offense.

Information for the indictment was obtained through the cooperative efforts of the Clark County State's Attorney's Office; the Westfield, Illinois Police Department; the Clark County Sheriff's Department; the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF); and the Illinois Secretary of State Police Bomb Squad. Under the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative, federal, state, and local law enforcement and prosecutors are working together to remove guns and drugs from our communities. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Richard H. Lloyd.